

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-27 were previously pending in the application. Claim 17 is canceled, claims 7 and 13 are amended, and new claim 28 is added herein. Assuming the entry of this amendment, claims 1-16 and 18-28 are now pending in the application. The Applicant hereby requests further examination and reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

In paragraph 4 of the final office action, the Examiner rejected claims 7-10 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Jonas. In paragraph 5, the Examiner allowed claims 1-6 and 19-27. In paragraph 6, the Examiner indicated that claims 11-12 and 17-18 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For the following reasons, the Applicant submits that all of the now-pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 13 has been amended to include the features of previously presented claim 17. As such, currently amended claim 13 is equivalent to previously presented claim 17 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously presented claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 13 is allowable. Since claims 14-16 and 18 depend variously from claim 13, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.

Claim 7 has been amended in a similar manner as claim 13. In particular, claim 7 has been amended to recite the features of previously presented claim 17. For the same reasons that currently amended claim 13 is allowable, the Applicant submits that currently amended claim 7 is allowable. Since claims 8-12 depend variously from claim 7, it is further submitted that those claims are also allowable.


New claim 28 is equivalent to previously pending claim 18 rewritten in independent form. Since the Examiner stated that previously pending claim 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, the Applicant submits that new claim 28 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant submits that the rejections of claims under Section 102(e) have been overcome.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicant believes that the now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant believes that the entire application is now in condition for allowance, and early and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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